



U.S. EPA - Mobile Scanner Van for Use the Lindsay Light II/ RV3 North Columbus Drive Site

Chicago, Illinois

June 2000

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide community residents and other interested individuals with information about the Lindsay Light sites. In particular, this fact sheet will provide a brief overview of the Mobile Scanner Van.

The U.S. EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air - Las Vegas Facility operates a Mobile Scanner Van to find sources of radioactive contamination. U.S. EPA will use this Mobile Scanner Van during June 20-22, 2000, in the vicinity of the Lindsay Light sites (the site). The Scanner Van will cover the following areas: Michigan Avenue to Navy Pier and from the Ogden Slip to Ontario Street.

U.S. EPA will use the Scanner Van to detect potential thorium contamination and to help identify potentially contaminated properties in the Streeterville area near the Lindsay Light II/RV3 North Columbus Drive site. The Scanner Van, a modified commercial delivery van, contains two extremely sensitive detectors used to locate gamma radiation (the type of radiation produced by thorium).

Since the van scans only out of its right side, it must be driven down every street in both directions. This includes one way streets. The vehicle will be driven at approximately 5 miles per hour, stopping occasionally. U.S. EPA will be working in cooperation with the City of Chicago's Departments of Environment and Transportation to minimize any traffic delays.

Two people will be in the van. One person will operate the instruments/detectors, and

the other person will drive the van. The van contains two detectors that operate simultaneously. One detects radiation from a narrow beam and the other measures radiation in a wider environment, providing baseline data. Information is sent to a console where the operator interprets the data.

Both outputs are displayed on the operator's console. They are also recorded using a strip chart recorder, which shows numerical representation of data, in order to identify potentially contaminated areas and to provide a permanent record of the survey. The readouts alert the operator to possible contamination which later can be further investigated with other field instruments.

U.S. EPA has used the Scanner Van for approximately 16 years at similar sites in West Chicago, IL, Ottawa, IL, Grand Junction, Co and Lansdowne, PA. The Scanner Van has consistently provided U.S. EPA with accurate information.

U.S. EPA chose this field survey instrument because it is similar to the surface gamma scanner (walkover) instruments that are in use at the site. Because the gamma ray detector in the van is much larger than the hand-held units, it can see contamination away from the van when the van is on the street, and can survey a neighborhood much faster than by surveying on foot. In one day, close to 30 miles may be covered with the Scanner Van. U.S. field crews later will visit any areas identified as potentially contaminated.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about the information in this fact sheet or would like additional information about the Lindsay Light Sites, please contact the individuals listed below:

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Lindsay Light site-related information is available at the following location:

Harold Washington Public Library
400 South State
Chicago, Illinois

Monday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tues. and Thurs.: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wed., Fri., and Sat.: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WEB SITES

This and additional updates can be found at the following web sites:

www.epa.gov.region5/sites/

Scroll down through the list to find the Lindsay Light II/RV3 North Columbus Drive site.